Somerset Archæological Society.—The first conversational meeting of this society was held on Monday week, the Rev. F. B. Portman in the chair; when the Rev. F. Warre read a paper on the ancient history of Taunton; and Mr. E. Walter, of Barr, an account of recent excavations in Ham Hill, and a paper on his discoveries on Worley-hill, Weston-super-mare. Various drawings, water-coloured and oil paintings, and objects in Natural History, &c. were exhibited.

Free Public Library and Museum for Norwich.—A stir is again being made to promote the establishment of a free library and museum in Norwich, and the *Norfolk Chronicle* points out how the foundations of such an institution might be readily laid without great cost, there being already a museum and two libraries in the city which might be purchased towards this end by help of a half-penny rate, as authorised by the Act.

Fall of Two Houses.—We hear of the fall of houses, close to the railway station in the Kingsland-road. Owing to the late heavy rains, it is supposed that the work had not properly set.

The Mediæval Secret.—There will be an intermediate meeting at the Institute of Architects on the 6th inst. when Dr. F. Hensizmann will explain a series of drawings illustrative of his alleged discovery of the constructional rules observed by mediæval church architects. If the author's assertion be borne out, he is able to revert to the so-called key or master secret of the freemasons.

Marylebone Free Library.—We are happy to state that the attempt to establish this, the first free library in the metropolis, is meeting with the most hearty support in all quarters. His Royal Highness Prince Albert has become the patron, and has forwarded a donation of 50*l*.; and, on the other hand, a committee of working men has been formed, and they are earnestly co-operating with their more wealthy friends in attempting to permanently establish this, one of the most promising institutions of the age.

Utility of a High-pressure Water-supply.—The new water-supply of the Local Board of Health at Tottenham has been called into requisition for the extinguishing of fire, under circumstances which show the advantages of a constant high-pressure supply, available against fire at all times, and, as in this case, extinguishing the conflagration within less time than on the average suffices to bring the engines to the spot even in London. The fire had got complete hold of the premises, and being a timber house, it and six houses adjoining must have fallen before the enemy: as it was, the damage done is only the destruction of the furniture of the upper floors, with part of roof, partitions, ceilings, and part of the outside of a single house.

Gas Manufacture.—At the Sheridan Debating Society, Liverpool, Mr. S. Edwards, of the Liverpool Gas Company, lately read a paper on coal gas manufacture, in which it appears to have been maintained that the gas of London as compared with that of Liverpool, in point of quality, ought only to be calculated in the ratio of 2*s.* per 1,000 cubic feet, or half the present price of gas in Liverpool.

Compensation for Improvements.—On Friday in last week, in the Lord Mayor's Court, London, a sailcloth maker of Bread-street, City, claimed compensation in respect of his premises, which were required for carrying out the improvements westward of King William-street to St. Paul's Churchyard. The sum claimed was 300*l*. as compensation for loss of trade, 152*l*. for repairs and alterations, 80*l*. for fixtures, 100*l*. for expenses of removal, and 250*l*. for unexpired term of lease, making a total of 882*l*. The recorder summed up, and the jury returned a verdict for 400*l*.

Swindon New Church.—A correspondent complains to us in, we should hope, somewhat exaggerated language, of the entry of water through the roof and tower. He says, when he was there, "Service was performed amidst such a splashing of falling water that all the eloquence of the preacher failed in preventing the thoughts of the congregation from rambling to 'The Flood.'"

Society of Antiquaries.—It may interest some of the readers of our Journal to hear that, at a very full meeting held on 25th ult. the reduction of the subscription from four guineas to two, and the composition fine from forty guineas to twenty-five was confirmed. Considerable discussion took place; but good feeling was manifested on all sides.

New Application of Iron.—A manufacturer in Wurtemburg has invented a mode of applying a surface coating to sheet-iron, which enables it to take freely the mark of a slate-pencil. It is much lighter and less liable to injury than a common slate.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

Patent Shutter (and Brass Sash) Works,
Gate-street, Lincoln's-inn fields,
London, 2nd Dec. 1852.

Sir,—Messrs. Clark and Co. of Gate-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, Engineers and Shutter Makers, assuming that a charge is made against them in the advertisement of Messrs. Bunnett and Co. which appeared in the *Builder* of last Saturday, beg to inform the readers of the *Builder*, and all persons, that Messrs. Clark and Co. have directed inquiries to be made whether they be the firm referred to in the advertisement, and in the event of Messrs. Bunnett and Co. confirming the assumption of Messrs. Clark and Co. such proceedings will be taken by them as will give Messrs. Bunnett and Co. the opportunity of proving what, until then, Messrs. Clark and Co. will declare to be an unfounded and slanderous attack.

TENDERS

For the proposed King's College Hospital. Mr. T. Bellamy, architect;—

	Portland.	Ancaster.
Locke and Nesham	£49,650	£7,650
Hill	49,117	47,574
Sissons and Robinson	48,221	46,701
Cooper	48,181	46,633
Myers	48,070	45,794
Sanders and Woolcott	48,040	46,350
Mansfield and Son	47,940	46,740
Holland	47,398	45,850
Jay	46,999	45,270
Rowland and Evans	46,033	44,435
Glenn	45,296	43,213
Lucas, Brothers	44,692	42,844

For building a new chapel and certain alterations at the Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum, Hanwell:—

Patrick and Son	£5,635
Hardy and Cowley	5,423
Nye and Ealing	5,039
Pollock and McLennan	4,985

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A. W." (we decline interference), "Oliver," "A. B." "P. B." (shall be happy to look at drawings), "T. R. W." (at the Office of Works, Whitehall), "Alpha," "J. W. H." (declined), "W. J." (ditto), "T. G." (thanks), "W." (shall appear), "L." (ditto), "J. A. N." "N. G." (very late), "G. E. P." "B. G." "F. W. R." "B. and P." "R. R. B." "R. T. W." "W. G. L." "Lynx" (we are unable to return newspapers), "J. D." (there is not a cubic inch in a common brick"), "B. A." (a mixture of wood and stone for pavement has been suggested before now. We cannot recommend the plan proposed), "Vulcan," "Department of Practical Art" (no charge is made for the time allowed for holidays. To those who have graduated at Somerset House the subscription is but 3*s.* per month. We may speak hereafter of foreign schools.)

"*Books and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO LANDOWNERS AND AGENTS.

AT Lady-day next, or earlier if required, the Advertiser is desirous to take a SITUATION as AGENT to a LANDOWNER, or as PARTNER, or MANAGING CLERK, in an Agency Office. He has a good knowledge of Architecture, and the style of construction, having been for some time in the office of a London Architect of good standing. During the last three years he has been engaged with a firm of land agents in the country of very high standing and extensive practice, and is familiar with the practice of Land Surveying, Levelling, Engineering as applied to Drainage, furlong-time underdraining on the most scientific principles; fencing, and all the details of the letting and management of estates, valuations for sale or letting, the arrangement and erection of farm buildings, and the management of woods and plantations. The highest references can be given as to his respectability and connexions, together with any security which may be required.—Address B B care of Messrs. Woolley and Son, South Collingham, Newark.

MARBLE WORKS.—Wanted, a Young Man of good address to take the management of a concern where chimney-pieces and monumental work will be carried on. He must be clever at sketching, and also capable of making an estimate. This would suit a young practical carver. Letters containing references and salary required, addressed (prepaid) J. B. H. care of Mr Tock, 160, High-street-street Walbrook.

PLUMSTEAD, WOOLWICH, and CHARLTON CONSUMERS' PURE WATER COMPANY.—WANTED, a man of general experience as FOREMAN of WORKS, to act as Time-keeper, Receiver of Stores, &c. &c. Salary twenty-five shillings a week, house-rent, coals, and gas.—Testimonials and references to be directed to the Secretary as under, on or before the 16th of December.

JAMES BLACK, Secretary.
Dec. 1, 1852. 76, Powis-street, Woolwich

TO ENGINEERS AND OTHERS.

WANTED, for the Plumstead, Woolwich, and Charlton Consumers' Pure Water Company, a PORTABLE PROVING MACHINE, capable of testing pipes from 3 inches to 18 inches diameter, of the usual length. A plan, with detailed reference of strength of materials, to be sent with the price to the Secretary, 76, Powis-street, Woolwich, on or before Saturday, the 11th December instant.—By order of the Board.

JAMES BLACK, Secretary.

TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.

WANTED, a respectable Lad as an IN-DOOR APPRENTICE to a good manufacturing business, where he will be treated as one of the family.—Apply by letter, post-paid, X. Y. No. 6, Minerva terrace, Brixton-road North.

AN Architect, holding a Government professorship, and in important practice, having buildings of the first character erecting in the neighbourhood of London, has VACANCIES in his office for ONE OUT-DOOR and ONE IN-DOOR PUPIL. None but gentlemanly, well-behaved youths of good family, will be taken.—Apply, B B 8, Mr. Philips's, 44, Store street, Bedford square.

TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.

AN opportunity now offers for a respectable youth as an IN-DOOR APPRENTICE to a BUILDER and DECORATOR in the Country about eighteen miles from London, where he would have a comfortable home, and every facility for acquiring a thorough knowledge of the business. For terms apply to Messrs. A. and R. WILCOXON, Plate-Glass Manufacturers and Paper Stainers, Monument-yard, London.

TWO DRAUGHTSMEN WANTED, as COPYING CLERKS. They must be able to write well and colour with taste.—Address, stating terms and giving references, to No. 9, Office of "The Builder," 1, York-street, Covent-garden.

WANTED, by an Architect and Surveyor in London, an experienced ASSISTANT, accustomed to the general business of an office, and well acquainted with the practical part of building.—Address by letter, stating qualifications and amount of salary required, to A. G. Office of "The Builder," 1, York-street, Covent-garden.

WANTED, an ASSISTANT in an Architect's office, capable of general attendance to in-door and out-door duties.—Address stating terms and qualifications, to W. W. Mr. Underwood's, stationer, Nottingham. Also, an ARTICLED PUPIL in the same office.—Address as above.

WANTED, a CLERK in an ENGINEER'S and FOUNDER'S OFFICE. He must have been engaged in a similar situation previously. One who understands mechanical drawing and estimating preferred.—Apply by letter, stating salary required, to X. Y. Office of "The Builder," 1, York-street, Covent-garden.

TO PLUMBERS, PAINTERS, AND OTHERS.

WANTED, in the country for a permanency, a steady, active, Three-branch Hand in the above trade. He must be a good plumber, hand, and sash glazier. One who can make himself generally useful would be preferred. Good references as to character and qualifications will be required.—Apply, stating age, to W. K. Post-office, Ongar, Essex.

WANTED, in a Builder's Office in the country, a CONFIDENTIAL CLERK, conversant with the general routine of the building business, understands drawing, estimating, measuring materials and work, competent to take the entire management of the accounts. To attend the same hour as gentlemen. A permanency if suited.—Address, stating age, salary, and qualifications, F. B. Office of "The Builder," 1, York-street, Covent-garden.

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WANTED, a Practical Man, about thirty years of age, to SUPERINTEND the CONSTRUCTION of Works. He must have a thorough knowledge of brickwork and masonry, earthwork, carpentry, &c. understand surveying and levelling, and also be fully competent to set out works, take them and value the same from the contracts and schedules, and otherwise fitted to be entrusted with charge and responsibility. The most unexceptionable references will be required.—Letters, stating age and previous occupations, general qualifications, and expected emolument, to be addressed to A. T. at Messrs. Miller and Fields, Smithfield, Westminster-bridge-road, Lambeth.

TO ARCHITECTS AND OTHERS.

WANTED, a SITUATION in an Architect's or Builder's office, by a person competent to fulfil the duties. Address, E. F. Office of "The Builder," 1, York-street, Covent-garden.

TO HOUSE DECORATORS AND OTHERS.

WANTED, a SITUATION, by a Young Man who will understands gilding and painting, and will make himself generally useful in the above business.—Address X. Y. Z. 23, Hornsey-street, Mount-street.

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WANTED, a SITUATION by a man who perfectly understands the above three branches, having had twenty years' practice. Recommendation from last master required.—Direct to H. M. No. C, Pulford-street, Pimlico.

TO BUILDERS, WINDOW-BLIND MAKERS, CABINETMAKERS, &c.

WANTED, a SITUATION as GLAZIER, or to take the management of the glazing department in a builder's yard, as cutter and glazier, by a steady young man who is perfectly acquainted with the business.—Address to R. R. 34, Princess-street, Portman-place, Edgware-road.

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WANTED, a permanent SITUATION, by a Young man, as PAINTER and GLAZIER. He can do writing, graining, paperhanging, gilding, &c. or make himself useful in any branch of the above business. Country not objected to.—Apply to A. B. No. 3, Market-street, St. John-street-road, Clerkenwell.

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AS CLERK of WORKS or BUILDER'S FOREMAN.—A person within for an ENGAGEMENT in either of the above situations having had several years' experience in the extending works. Can make working drawings, &c. Unexceptionable references can be given.—Address, A. B. Mr Vincent's Builder, No. 9, Gilbert-street, Oxford-street.

A BUSINESS MAN, who has the entire conduct of the executive house of an old-established manufactory, seeks similar or other EMPLOY, where facility and perseverance are required. He is accustomed to travelling, book-keeping, correspondence, &c. and would devote himself to the interests of any concern he might be engaged in. No objection to the country. References, his present employer and other parties.—Address, A. B. Mr. Black's, 7, Upper Fenton-street, Pentonville.

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